



TB Control and Prevention Program

Division of Disease Prevention

Virginia Department of Health

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Annual Spittoon Award Winners Targeted Testing: 2008 Exception List FDA Warning on Fluoroquinolone Antimicrobial Drugs 2008 TB Education Materials

Annual Annual Spittoon Award Winners

The winners of the Annual Traveling Spittoon Awards were recently announced during the TB/Refugee Nurse Training that took place December 3-5 at Natural Bridge.

The Spittoon Award is given to the district in each region that achieves the highest score on several key performance factors. This year's award criteria was based on 2006 case data and included:

- Completion of therapy in less than 366 days,
- Completion of therapy in pulmonary cases on directly observed therapy (DOT), and
- Completion of therapy by contacts for latent TB infection.

In addition, complicating factors, such as HIV co-infection, homelessness, substance abuse, resistance to rifampin, or recent immigration are also considered in determining a district's performance score.

Congratulations to the following winners in each health district on their accomplishments:

Central Region: Richmond
Eastern Region: Virginia Beach
Northern Region: Prince William
Northwest Region: Central Shenandoah
Southwest Region: Cumberland Plateau



DPP-tb appreciates the efforts of these health districts and all throughout the state who continue to work toward the eradication of tuberculosis.

Targeted Testing: Deciding Who's from a High Prevalence Country

As part of the risk assessment and target screening process, questions often arise concerning the definition of “high prevalence country” for the purposes of completing the risk assessment tool and determining who should receive a tuberculin skin test (TST). The CDC recently defined high prevalence as countries having a rate of 20 or more cases per 100,000. Individuals from countries with rates less than 20 per 100,000 should only be tested if they are symptomatic or have another individual risk factor.



2008 Exception List(i): Skin Test only if Symptomatic or an Additional Individual Risk Factor is Present

American Region	African Region	European Region	Asian Region	Western Pacific Region
Antigua Aruba Barbados Bermuda Canada Caymen Islands Chile Costa Rica Cuba Dominica Grenada Jamaica Montserrat Netherlands Antilles Puerto Rico Saint Kitts & Nevis Saint Lucia Trinidad & Tobago Turks and Caicos Islands United States Virgin Islands (US & BR)	No exception countries	Albania Andorra Austria Belgium Czech Republic Cyprus Denmark Finland France Germany Greece Iceland Israel Ireland Italy Luxembourg Malta Monaco Netherlands Norway San Marino Slovakia Slovenia Sweden Switzerland United Kingdom	Jordan Lebanon Libyan Arab Jamahiriya Oman United Arab Emirates	American Samoa Cook Islands Australia New Zealand Samoa

(i) Based on CDC guidance. High prevalence countries have case rates ≥ 20 per 100,000.

FDA Requests Boxed Warnings on Fluoroquinolone Antimicrobial Drugs

In July 2008, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued a notification to manufacturers and released **Information for Healthcare Professionals** regarding fluoroquinolone antimicrobial drugs. The following information provides a summary of the FDA's release.

The FDA has notified manufacturers of fluoroquinolone antimicrobial drugs of the need to add a Boxed Warning in the product label concerning the increased risk of tendinitis and tendon rupture in patients taking the drugs. The FDA has also directed manufacturers of the drugs to develop a Medication Guide for patients about possible side effects. The information regarding warnings for fluoroquinolones and adverse effects on tendons applies only to systemic use of the drugs (tablets, capsules and injectable forms). It does not apply to fluoroquinolones for ophthalmic or otic use (eye drops and ear drops)

Fluoroquinolone are drugs approved for the treatment or prevention of certain bacterial infections. These drugs are used as second line drugs in the treatment of drug resistant/intolerant tuberculosis cases and their contacts. The medications involved in this action are:

- Cipro and generic ciprofloxacin
- Cipro XR and Proquin XR (ciprofloxacin extended release)
- Factive (gemifloxacin)
- Levaquin (levofloxacin)
- Avelox (moxifloxacin)
- Norxin (norfloxacin) and
- Floxin and generic ofloxacin



The FDA also issued **Information for Health Care Professionals** to alert them to the increased risk of tendinitis and tendon rupture in patients taking these drugs. This information states that the risk of getting tendon problems is higher if a patient is over age 60; taking steroids (corticosteroids); or a kidney, heart, or lung transplant recipient.

Patients should also avoid exercise and using the affected area at the first sign of tendon pain, swelling, or inflammation and notify their nurse case manager. Local health departments should notify VDH TB Control immediately of any patients who experience tendinitis while under treatment for a tuberculosis diagnosis.

For further information:

The full FDA Alert and Information for Healthcare Professionals on Fluoroquinolone Antimicrobial Drugs can be found at:

<http://www.fda.gov/cder/drug/InfoSheets/HCP/fluoroquinolonesHCP.htm>

TB Education and Training Products From RTMCCs– 2008 Update


There are numerous tuberculosis-specific education materials and resources to support the TB healthcare professional. The CDC-funded TB Regional Training and Medical Consultation Centers (RTMCCs) develop TB resources on a wide range of topics and in diverse formats. The following chart lists products and resources that were developed in 2008 by all of the RTMCCs; many can be downloaded directly from the RTMCC's website.






To access the complete list of TB resources developed by the RTMCCs, determine the available formats, and find links to each resource, go to:

<https://sntc.medicine.ufl.edu/rtmccproducts.aspx>

To learn more about the RTMCCs, go to: <http://www.cdc.gov/tb/rtmcc.htm>

Product	Description	Produced By:
BMI Chart: Impact of Poor Nutrition on TB Relapse	Double sided flip chart	Heartland National Tuberculosis Center
Caliper for Tuberculin Skin Test Reading	Information in English and Spanish is printed on caliper; contains instructions for using a caliper to measure a TST	Southeastern National Tuberculosis Center
Country Guide – An Introduction	Provides an overview of the Country Guides, which help providers work with foreign-born individuals	Southeastern National Tuberculosis Center
Guides are currently available for the following countries: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cambodia • Dominican Republic • Ecuador • Honduras • India • Mexico • Philippines • Somalia • Vietnam 	Each country guide provides background information, epidemiology, common misperceptions and beliefs about TB and HIV/AIDS, general practices and cultural courtesies for the specific country	Southeastern National Tuberculosis Center 
Drug-Resistant TB: A Survival Guide for Clinicians – 2 nd Ed. Available in 2 formats: Book and CD	Contains information and tools and template for use by clinicians who participate in the management of patients with drug-resistant TB	Francis J. Curry National Tuberculosis Center

Product	Description	Produced By:
Recording of National Webinar: Pediatric TB	Special viewing steps are required. Download instructions at: http://www.heartlandntbc.org/training/webinars/20080627/readme.pdf	Francis J. Curry National Tuberculosis Center
Recording of TB Medications: Adverse Drug Reactions with Case Studies: Two separate programs: Part 1 and Part 2	Windows Media Video format; can be viewed with Windows Media Player	Heartland National Tuberculosis Center  THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS HEALTH CENTER AT TYLER HEART Land NATIONAL TB CENTER A PARTNERSHIP OF UT HEALTH CENTER AND TCID
Pediatric TB for the Private Provider - CD	Includes four recorded presentations, Q & A sessions, and resource materials. Free CE and CME offered with mastery of post-test and completion of evaluation	Southeastern National Tuberculosis Center
Practical Applications of Genotyping in TB Control: A National Web-based Seminar	Provides an introduction to genotyping, interpretation of data, the national genotyping program and its applications	Francis J. Curry National Tuberculosis Center
Shelters and TB: What Staff need to Know, Second Edition - CD	Contains a viewer's guide and training video about how to prevent the spread of TB in homeless shelters	Francis J. Curry National Tuberculosis Center
Tuberculosis Contact Investigation in Jail: A Facilitator Guide – Book/CD-Rom	For correctional liaisons who are responsible for facilitating the training of jail and health department staff who conduct TB contact investigation in jail	Francis J. Curry National Tuberculosis Center  FRANCIS J. CURRY NATIONAL TUBERCULOSIS CENTER
Tuberculosis Program Manual Template	Set of fully editable Word files that provides standardized guidance to public health staff in a low incidence region	Francis J. Curry National Tuberculosis Center
What Parents Need to Know about TB Infection in Children	Provides parents with important information on TB infection in children; designed in question and answer format	New Jersey Medical School Global TB Institute  NEW JERSEY MEDICAL SCHOOL GLOBAL TUBERCULOSIS INSTITUTE